

Application Serial No.: 10/673,846
Amendment and Response to March 23, 2006 Non-Final Office Action

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Abstract with the following replacement Abstract:

A method, system, and article of manufacture, the method including, in some embodiments, determining a device context for a device associated with an identity where the device context provides an availability status of the device, determining an identity context for the identity where the identity context provides an availability status of the identity, determining an availability rule associated with the identity, determining a true availability of the identity based, at least in part, on the device context, the identity context, and the availability rule, and providing data indicative of the true availability of the identity.

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Please replace the paragraph at page 7, line 12 – page 8, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

In addition to the above, an identity's availability may be qualified or established by one or more rules, filters, policies, conventions, etc. (herein referred to as "rules") created or used by the identity, a system administrator, or other party, device or application. In some embodiments, an identity may establish or use one or more rules such that ~~that~~ the identity's availability may depend on factors such as, for example, the time of day, day of week, device context, personal schedule, system rules or schedule, the identity of a caller, etc. For example, a first identity may be "in the office" and the first identity may be available to accept both telephone calls and instant messages via devices associated with the first identity. In general, a second identity or a third identity may be able to see that the first identity is both in the office and available for communication via telephone and instant messaging. However, the first identity may establish one or more rules that provide that the first identity is not available to accept instant messages between 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm and that telephone calls from the third identity always should be sent to voice mail. These rules may be unknown to the second and third identities. If the second identity attempts to send an instant message at 2:00 pm to the first identity, the desired contact will not occur in accordance with the rules. If the third identity attempts to call the first identity, the third identity will automatically be sent to voice mail in accordance with the rules established by the first identity. The second and third identities may be able to receive, access, and/or view information regarding the availability of the first identity so they may know how they may be able to contact the first identity and/or the availability of the first identity.